

ROOSEVELT PLAN DISCLOSED

OFFERS A SMOOTH DIPLOMATIC COMPROMISE SAID JAPANESE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT WITTE FAVORS ACCEPTANCE BY RUSSIA

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 22.—The Associated Press is now in a position to reveal substantially the suggestion of President Roosevelt for breaking the existing deadlock in the peace negotiations and rescuing the conference from failure.

His solution would ingeniously permit the satisfaction of the Japanese demands for reimbursement for the cost of the war and at the same time enable Russia to face the world with declarations that she had not ceded a foot of territory or paid a kopek of war tribute to the victor.

The solution is one which has heretofore been described in the Associated Press dispatches as a natural and logical compromise. Terresly stated, it consists in an agreement by Russia to repurchase possession of either all or half of the island of Sakhalin, now in the military occupation of Japan, for a sum the amount of which, if the two countries can not agree, shall be decided by some method of arbitration hereafter to be determined. The purchase money, together with the sum Japan would obtain from cession of the Chinese eastern railroad and maintenance of Russian prisoners in Japan would, it is estimated, about equal the amount claimed by Japan as her bill for cost of the war.

The solution offered by the President therefore probably involves recession by Japan upon article five (the cession of Sakhalin), and recession by Russia upon article 8 (indemnity).

It seems practically certain, though this can not be affirmed positively, that the president today was able to give Mr. Witte substantial assurance that Japan would be willing to accept of such compromise.

Mr. Witte, it is positively stated, personally favors the solution offered by the president, but is powerless unless his imperial master gives the word. With most intense anxiety that word is awaited. It spells peace or war.

Russian Reply Thought Received.
Portsmouth, Aug. 22.—A long cablegram from St. Petersburg, which is believed to be the Russian reply, arrived about 10 o'clock tonight, and Mr. Witte's secretaries immediately began deciphering it.

It is stated that Baron Komura has agreed to offer at the session at 9:30 this morning the president's compromise proposition.

A high authority believes it impossible that the final rupture can come today, no matter what the character of the Emperor's final instructions to Mr. Witte are.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 22.—It has been decided to postpone the meeting of the peace plenipotentiaries until tomorrow. When the conference adjourned last Friday afternoon it was given out that the next meeting would occur today. The failure to meet today is given out as being attributable to the fact that the secretaries have failed to complete the records.

Mr. Witte has not yet received the final word from St. Petersburg which was expected this morning, and therefore with Witte's authorization, Mr. Ploncon went to Mr. Sato, the Japanese secretary, and suggested a postponement. Baron Komura approved of the postponement.

As the situation now stands Mr. Witte could not, if he would, recede or compromise on either article 5 (Sakhalin) or article 8 (indemnity).

There is still a possibility that the emperor will take President Roosevelt's advice and take the only step which the President thinks can save the conference from wreck.

The suggestion of President Roosevelt is that the several articles on which agreement has been reached shall be considered as settled and that the unsettled articles be submitted to The Hague for settlement, or that three rulers be named to arbitrate the difference, with a proviso that the war shall stand in abeyance.

Looks Better.
There is a strong intimation that the Japanese are ready to make a proposition when the conference reassembles, but there is nothing to indicate that they are ready to recede either from article five or nine.

At 1 o'clock today a personal representative of President Roosevelt was closeted with Mr. Witte and Baron Rosen at the navy yard. The appointment for this conference was made through Secretary Pierce last night.

It is not known who the emissary of the President is. When the conference ended Mr. Witte and Baron Rosen returned to the hotel.

DENVER BANK WAS LOOTED

Denver, Aug. 22.—Edwin H. Park, as attorney for William Corbett and others will bring suit in the district court shortly to have a receiver appointed for the Denver Savings bank. In the bill of complaint William Corbett, Thomas Connor, Andrew P. Hansen and others are named as plaintiffs, and the Denver Savings bank, Leonard Imboden, J. A. Hill, P. P. Jones, William Barth, John B. Farish, Thomas Keely, C. F. Potter and C. B. Wiley are named as defendants.

The bill of complaint tells a story of alleged bank looting and general highway robbery scarcely equalled in the history banking—a story which for boldness and audacity rivals the record of Jesse James and other famous bandits. The bill shows in detail how Hill, Imboden and his crowd obtained from the Denver Savings bank loans to the total amount of \$555,000, secured by the stock of other banks and corporations with which some members of the clique was connected in an official capacity. In each case the most reliable banking reports show that the securities upon which the several loans were made are of doubtful or fictitious value, in several instances the names of the bank or corporation not being given at all.

CONGER HAS RESIGNED

Said that He is Entirely Out Of Diplomatic Service

Oyster Bay, Aug. 22.—Edwin H. Conger, of Iowa, has resigned his post as Ambassador to Mexico, to take effect October 18th next. President Roosevelt has accepted the resignation.

Mr. Conger's retirement from diplomatic service was foreshadowed in these dispatches last week. It was indicated then that he might be sent to Pekin as a special commissioner of the president to adjust if possible the differences which have arisen between this country and China over the boycott of American goods by some of the Chinese commercial guilds.

While no official statement is obtainable here regarding the mission, there are reasons for the statement that it either has been abandoned by the president or that it has been declined by Mr. Conger. At any rate it is believed Mr. Conger will not go to China as representative of the government.

DECLARE FOR JOINTURE.
Muskogee, I. T., Aug. 22.—Resolutions declaring for statehood immediately for Oklahoma and Indian Territory, as one state were adopted by constitutional convention of the Indians of the five civilized tribes today.

6—The surrender to Japanese of the Russian leases of the Liautung Peninsula, including Port Arthur, Dalny and the Blonde and Elliott islands. Accepted.

7—The surrender to China by arrangement with Japan of the branch of the Chinese Eastern railroad, running south from Harbin to Port Arthur and Nichwang, together with the retrocession of all privileges obtained under the concession of 1898. Accepted in principle; final agreement deferred.

8—The limitation of the Chinese concession obtained by Mr. Rothstein and Prince Ukhomsky in 1896, under which the "cut-off" through Northern Manchuria was built to connect with the Transiberian and the Ussuri railroads, so as to provide for the retention of the ownership and operation of the line by the Chinese Eastern, but with the provision for the eventual substitution of Chinese imperial police for Russian "railroad guards." Accepted.

9—Remuneration for cost of the war. Refused and action deferred.

10—The surrender of the Russian warships interned in neutral far Eastern waters. Disagreement and action deferred.

11—Limitation of Russia's naval

MINE TAX RAISE ILLEGAL

Attorney George Neal Declares Code Does Not Sustain Territorial Board in Recent Action Points to Reversal in Similiar Case

If an opinion expressed yesterday by George Neal, the attorney, is correct, the Territorial Board of Equalization can "go way back and sit down" as far as its power is concerned in raising the taxes on mines in Arizona.

Mr. Neal has been looking up the matter for the past few days, and has come to the conclusion that the board went far beyond its powers, that its action was illegal, and that the assessments made by the county boards of equalization will have to stand.

In explaining his contention, Mr. Neal said: "The code, in referring to the powers of the Territorial Board, expressly states that they can not raise the assessment upon any special industry, and are only given the power to raise the figures of county boards in one certain way, and that is, by raising the assessment of the entire county and upon every industry in it. Whenever the board picks out any particular industry and raises the taxes, set by the county board, upon the same, it goes beyond its powers, and I feel assured it will so be decided if a case is brought into court."

Mr. Neal further says that a decision has already been rendered in the California courts covering an identical case, and that this decision fully covers the matter in Arizona.

By reference to the Arizona Code it can be easily ascertained that Mr. Neal's contention is without doubt correct, and the recent arbitrary action of the Territorial board, backed up by Governor Kibbey, can not stand under the Code. In consequence there can be no raise over the figures set by the county boards under the recent territorial board ruling that will stand the test of litigation.

The action of the board at Phoenix in raising the taxes on mines in Co-chise county 1500 per cent, meant ruin to many residents of this county, as far as their mining claims were concerned, so that Mr. Neal's opinion of the illegality of the act should be received with much satisfaction generally.

When the resolution to adopt the percentage of increased assessment was first introduced before the board, Doneau, of Pima county, offered an amendment to the effect that all property be included in the resolution, which, under the Code, would have made the act legal, but this was lost upon a tie vote, and Governor Kibbey, by calling for Mr. Doneau's resignation, which was given, and appointing General Wilson, and thereby having the original resolution passed, knocked his own scheme in the head.

CUTS BY COUNTY BOARD

Tombstone, Aug. 22.—Casual glance at the returns from today's labors of the members of the Board of Equalization would indicate that they fell from the position of stand-patters as occupied on yesterday with considerable of a thud.

The gentlemen got a total of \$44,950 off today in the way of reductions in cattle, fences, etc. Outside of this the Supervisors took off \$51,000 from the Boquillas and Babocamari ranches on land valuations. The lands of these properties stood at \$5 per acre. The board cut it to \$2.50. The total reduction made for the day was \$95,950. This is close to half of the entire raise made by the board on the assessment roll in the beginning.

As the Board will yet be in session several days in all probability, there is chance for the other half shrinking considerably.

As yet the county Board has received no official notice from the Territorial Board as to raises voted on mining properties. It is now expected this will come about Thursday. Meantime it is understood the Territorial Board has adjourned. It made the territorial assessed valuation \$57,320,372.54.

KILLED BY HIGHWAMAN.

New York Woman Murdered in Chicago Street.

Chicago, Aug. 22.—Mrs. S. E. Mize and Mrs. E. B. Wilson, both of New York, while out for a short walk tonight were stopped by two men who demanded their valuables. Mrs. Mize started to run, when one of the men shot her in the head. Mrs. Mize died within a few minutes.

U. P. WRECK.

Report Has Five Dead and Number Injured.

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 22.—Report has just reached here that five persons have been killed and a number injured in a wreck on the Union Pacific near Rossville, Kan., about 18 miles west of Topeka.

ABSOLVES SENATOR CLARK

Decision in Montana Court Allows Plea of Bona Fide Purchasers.

Helena, Mont., Aug. 22.—Judge William H. Hunt of the United States court, today handed down his memorandum order passing upon the motion of defendants in the case of the United States against William A. Clark and R. M. Cobban for leave to file the plea for bona fide purchasers for a valuable consideration without notice of the lands in controversy in the case. The motion of Senator Clark is granted, while the motion as to Mr. Cobban is held for further hearing.

This decision of Judge Hunt has the effect of absolving Senator Clark from any fraudulent transaction involving about one hundred quarter sections of land.

STATEHOOD = CURTIS

FINDS SENTIMENT UNANIMOUS IN ARIZONA TAKES HARD FALL OUT OF DELEGATE RODEY ALSO PAYS RESPECTS TO BEVERIDGE PARTY

Wm. E. Curtis writing to the Chicago Record-Herald from Phoenix expresses the sentiment found by a trained newspaper man, unprejudiced and a stranger to the field, of the people with whom he has met in the territory in regard to joint statehood in the following.

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 14.—The people of Arizona, members of both parties alike, the business element, the miners, professional men and farmers as well as the politicians, are determined in their opposition to union with New Mexico, and with one voice declare that they would rather remain a territory forever than be admitted to the Union under the same government as New Mexico.

Mr. Rodey, formerly delegate from New Mexico in Congress, told me in Albuquerque the other day that public sentiment was changing very rapidly; that joint statehood leagues were being organized all over Arizona; that sixty per cent of the people had already declared themselves in favor of joint statehood; and that the inhabitants of the two territories would march into the Union arm in arm. People down here say they never heard of such a thing as a joint statehood league, and they are willing to bet their last dollar that it has no members in Arizona—not one.

The people down here cannot understand their hospitality, repudiated their plans and spent only three days in the investigation of the merits of Arizona for statehood. They reached Prescott a little before sundown, were driven around the city for half an hour, spent the evening at the residence of one of the leading citizens and left the next morning at 11 o'clock. They stopped at Congress mine and went down about 3,600 feet into the earth. They arrived at Phoenix after dark, where several citizens called upon them at the hotel. The next morning they attended the opening of Justice Kent's court, took a drive of two hours and authorized Governor Brodie to select two representative citizens to furnish the information desired. A good part of the afternoon was spent in the cross-examination of the gentlemen selected. A social reception was given the distinguished strangers at the Adams Hotel until midnight, when they left by special train via Benson to Bisbee, where they arrived at dark. After looking hastily over the town they resumed their train and rushed on to Deming in the night, and the investigation of Arizona was completed.

The committee was furnished with a good deal of written and printed information, but it is evident that little of it was examined, because of the frequent misstatements in their report. Altogether the so-called investigation was a ridiculous farce, and Senator Beveridge and his associates must have behaved in a very undignified and childish manner.

BAD FIRE AT PORTLAND

FOUR BLOCKS WERE BURNED BY FIRE WHICH STARTED IN RESTAURANT.

Portland, Ore., Aug. 22.—A fire, which started in a restaurant on the north side of East Stark street, destroyed four blocks in which was the business center of old East Portland today.

The loss is approximately \$150,000, with insurance to probably cover one-third of the loss.

With but few exceptions the twenty buildings destroyed were mostly occupied by Chinese laundries and second-hand stores. There were, however, several pretentious structures in the burned district.

REMOVED THE RECEIVER.

Denver, Aug. 22.—Judge John Immlis today removed H. M. Beatty as assignee of the Western Bank and named the Continental Trust Company as assignee. The Supreme Court will be asked to issue a writ to stay proceedings in the district court.

MINNESOTA TORNADO.

La Crosse, Wis., Aug. 22.—One man killed and several are reported missing at Lanesboro and Rusford, Minn., and crops have been destroyed, by a tornado that swept Southern Minnesota last night. All communications have been cut off by the storm.

OWNED FAMOUS CABLE MINE.

Anaconda, Mont., Aug. 22.—J. C. Sherry, the owner of the famous Cable mine, is dead of heart disease. He was 53 years old.

GERMAN --- BRITISH CRISIS

Berlin, Aug. 22.—According to several high officials of the government, Prince Von Buelow, the imperial chancellor, who left Norderny, where he was spending his vacation, for Berlin, went today to the castle of Wilhelmshoehe to see Emperor William. Dr. Von Muehlberg, under secretary of the foreign office, who left Berlin for a vacation of several weeks, was suddenly recalled to join the chancellor at Wilhelmshoehe.

The reason for these movements is so far only the subject of conjecture, but it is known that the relations between Great Britain and Germany have recently been on the point of breaking to an extent beyond the knowledge of the public.

Precisely what happened has not been learned, but a serious situation existed; indeed, it is understood it has not yet been dissipated. The British government appears to hold the conviction that the German emperor is seeking to form a European combination against Great Britain.